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Rhyl Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(E. HUGHES JONES, M.D., C.M., J.P.).

TOGETHER WITH THE

ANNUAL REPORT of the SANITARY INSPECTOR

(ROBERT LOWE, F.S.I.A., A.R.S. Inst.)

FOR THE

Year 1925.

RHYL :

LEIGH & WILLIAMS, LTD., 31, SUSSEX STREET.



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1925.

*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RHYL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.*

GENTLEMEN,

This year's report has to contain the physical features and a general description of the town, which, thanks to its favourable position between the river estuaries and the distant hills which have an appreciable effect on the rainfall and sunshine records, gives us an advantage that few towns possess. They are appreciated more and more as shewn by the number of houses that farseeing and enterprising builders are now erecting with advantage to themselves and henceforth the town.

I am sorry I cannot agree with the wholesale carting away of the sandhills, which, when covered with marram grass and lucerne, planted with care and considerable expense, formed an efficient barrier against sand-drift, of which Rhyl has had considerable experience and expense. This has been practically cured in the west end by the new extension of the promenade, and while the sandhills remained it was practically negligible on the East end.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

I again call your attention to the pressing need of a Public Abattoir so as to facilitate the centralised killing and inspection of meat.

HOUSING.

It is a great pleasure to record the rapid progress that is being made to solve the housing shortage for the working class, and I only hope you will not stay your efforts until 100 more are erected. Considering the present rate of the growth of the town and the large number of cases of overcrowding in the town, they will all be needed.

SMOKE NUISANCE.

I am pleased to say that the Imperial Government are con-

templating new legislature with regard to the pollution of the air of cities and towns. This will be beneficial to the country at large.

VACCINATION RETURNS.

The exemptions are evidently increasing, showing this year that only 51·3% of successful vaccinations. This, I am quite sure, is going to cause a lot of trouble and expense in the future. Other countries are more stringent and compel everyone to be vaccinated so that there is less chance of it ever becoming an epidemic abroad than in this country owing to the compulsory vaccination, which is undoubtedly best for the community as a whole.

MILK SUPPLY.

The milk supply of the town is so important and vital to its best interests that I am again pleading with the vendors, wholesale and retail, to make all the efforts they can to supply only pure, clean milk, as that is almost the first question put by parents when they bring their children to the seaside: "Where can I get the best milk?" If only the public confidence be gained the sales would double or treble in amount.

It is significant that the total amount of money spent by this Nation for milk is about £74,000,000 per annum, whilst that for alcoholic drinks totals £315,000,000 per annum. If these figures were reversed the benefit to be derived would be better for the Nation's health and its people.

SUNSHINE RECORD.

Although it is only in comparatively recent years that the value of sunlight has been put on a scientific therapeutic basis. It has been accorded the first place in the creation according to Genesis. Only when this was accomplished would the earth yield her fruit, grasses, herbs, &c. How dependant we are for health and strength on Solar Rays. We have only to look round and notice the difference between town and country-bred people. It seems strange, indeed, as Dr. Rollier, of Leipsen, says, we have not always recognised the value of sunshine. So little intensive use has been made of a natural therapeutic agent so potent, so freely and so generally available, and nowhere more so in these islands than at the seaside, where the actinic value of sunlight is so much greater than inland, but in doing this one ought to seek the early morning light of the sun, but avoid the mid-day heat. Perhaps one ought to mention how inimicable the Ultra Violet Rays are to the lowly forms of life such as Infusoria and Bacteria, including the Bacilli of Tuberculosis.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The Urban District of Rhyl is situated in Flintshire, on the North Wales Coast. Its sea frontage faces N.W.W., and it is bounded on the west by the Estuary of the Rivers Clwyd and Elwy, which drain an extensive tract of country known as the Vale of Clwyd, extending inland southward for a distance of nearly 30 miles, and the Vale of the Elwy extending some 17 to 20 miles in a westerly direction. The junction of the Rivers Clwyd and Elwy are at a distance of three miles from the Estuary, and for nearly the whole of this length the river is tidal.

The area of the district has a subsoil of hard blown sea sand, which goes to a considerable depth and distance from the sea in some places.

Clay, gravel and peat mud are also found in varying quantities as subsoil.

Its general surface is level, but it has one slight rise; this, however, in no way affects the draining of the area.

Along its more inland boundary there runs an artificial water course known as the "Rhyl Cut," which serves to drain all the low land eastward and southward of the town—and discharges itself into the river on the western boundary.

This water course is a very important feature in the interests, or otherwise, of the district, for, properly cleaned out and kept clean, so as to offer no obstruction to the flow of water along its whole length, it ensures dry subsoil for the small class of tenements situated near its course.

The prevailing winds are from the west and north-west.

The climate is particularly bracing, and as the rainfall is a low one, and the subsoil for the greater part porous, the district comes well within the definition of dry.

Being bounded by hills on two sides, the town and district escape violent thunderstorms and much rain.

THE SOCIAL CONDITIONS

may be briefly set out as follows:—

The chief industries are lodging house keeping and providing for the needs and amusements of visitors. Beyond the necessary trading establishments, the district contains only one small engineering works which gives employment to about 50 hands.

Women are employed in connection with a Steam Laundry. Thus it will be seen there is no trade carried on that has any particular influence upon the public health.

WATER SUPPLY.

This is from a mountainous district, situated ten miles from the town.

The Council has complete control of all the water-shed area, which is regularly visited, inspected and reported upon. Earth closets are supplied to all homesteads within the area, and are regularly attended to, so that contamination is guarded against as far as possible—and indeed effectively. Two large reservoir lakes collect the water, from which it can be either drawn separately or jointly, and from these it is conveyed in iron pipes to the filtering beds, situated at a distance six miles from the town of Rhyl.

There it is dealt with by means of four separate filter beds and two Ferro-Concrete Gravel Filters, with Automatic Control, at Glascoed. Fine wire strainers have also been put in.

The object of these Gravel or Roughing Filters is the removal of any matter held in suspension in the Service Reservoir. This leaves the Sand Filters to deal with the finer work of filtration, so avoiding frequent changing and interruption of the working of the Sand Filters.

That these Filters have been successful in their working is proved by an Analysis of the water, made by the Clinical Research Association, which pronounced the water to be :—

“A good drinking and domestic supply, free from all Bacterial and Mineral impurities.”

The supply is abundant, constant, and good, and is the supply of a considerable area outside the Rhyl Urban Area, which includes the neighbouring places :—Rhuddlan, St. Asaph, Trefnant, Abergele, and part of Llandulas.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

This is a gravitation system as follows :—

Earthenware sewer pipes, cemented joints, inspection chambers, ventilating columns, automatic flushing tanks to dead ends, disc flushing points in street. A deep well into which all gravitates, and which it is lifted by a series of pumps operated by gas engines, and conveyed into a high level discharging tank or reservoir. From here it is discharged by gravitation into an outfall length of iron pipes carried to a point on the seashore deemed most appropriate, and released on the ebbing tide, and by it carried westward into the sea. This system of sewage disposal is undoubtedly the best possible system for any health resort and has acted admirably for the district for the past 30 years. But what was deemed adequate at that time has now become inadequate for our present needs.

The Storage Reservoir requires to be doubled and a larger discharging capacity of the outfall pipes required, also the engine and pumping machinery increased, especially is this necessary in view of the new estates being developed, new houses being erected and the drainage of the large number of new houses recently erected outside the district, all of which have been connected to your sewers, also in contemplation of the proposed extension of your boundaries. I am quite aware that this question has been under consideration by the Council, but I now suggest that the question is of such vital importance from the public health point of view as should lead to a definite conclusion without further delay, so as to retain the confidence of the investing public and future residents of the town.

STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The population of the district as given in the census returns for 1921 was 13,490. The Registrar General estimates the figure for the present year as being 10,630, which, I consider, is a very low estimate.

BIRTH RATE.

During the year there were registered 148 births, viz., 60 males and 88 females. Out of this number 9 males and 7 females were illegitimate. The rate on the estimated population is 13.92 per 1,000, or 0.03 lower than that of 1924. The birth rate for England and Wales for the same period is 18.3. The lowness of our birth rate is explained partly by the exodus of young people to the manufacturing centres, also by the want of suitable housing accommodation for the working classes and by the influx of middle aged and elderly people from other towns who come here to live a retired life.

DEATH RATE.

The total deaths from all causes registered (R.G.R.) was 148, which gives a corrected death rate of 13.92 per 1,000 of the population, and is higher than that of 1924 by 2.14. The local Registrar's returns show that 154 deaths were registered within the district—which is equal to a rate of 14.48 on the estimated population (10,630), and 10.70 per 1,000 on the census population (13,490)—but of that number (154), 18 were non-residents whose deaths were registered and transferred to their different localities. On the other hand 16 persons belonging to the district died outside its boundaries, and are to be added to the local deaths of residents, giving a true or "corrected" death rate of 11.88.

Rate amongst persons aged 65 years and upwards :—

At this age period 69 deaths occurred between the ages of

65 and 91, average 74 years, and at the rate of 6.49 of the population or 45.39 of the total deaths.

ZYMOTIC MORTALITY.

Three deaths occurred from Zymotic Diseases, viz., Influenza 3.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Amongst infants under one year, there were 10 deaths, or in the proportion of 66.51 per 1,000 registered births as against 75 for England and Wales and 85.71 for the district in 1924. Two deaths were recorded of illegitimate children at a rate of 0.19 per 1,000 registered births.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

10 deaths were caused by Pulmonary Tuberculosis equal to 0.94 per 1000 of the population. One of these was a visitor.

OTHER TUBERCULOSIS DISEASES.

Under this heading 2 deaths occurred, equal to a rate of 0.18 per 1000 of the population.

OTHER RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

Bronchitis 9, equal to a rate of .85 per 1000. Pneumonia 6, equal to a rate of .56 per 1000, and other respiratory diseases 4, equal to a rate of 0.38 per 1000 population.

DEATH RATE FROM CANCER.

25 deaths were ascribed to Cancer, the rate being 2.35 per 1000 of the population, an increase of 1.22 over that of 1924.

VACCINATION RETURNS.

The local Registrar has supplied me with the following information :—

During the year 1925 the number of successful vaccinations were 79, whilst 53 exemptions were granted. The number of births were 154, showing that only 51.3% of the children born were vaccinated. These figures, to my mind, assume a very serious aspect, especially in the face of the number of cases of Smallpox reported in different parts of the country during the year.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This section of Public Health Administration is entirely

under the control of the Flintshire County Council and their Health Visitors. The District Council grant the free use of two rooms at the Town Hall, Rhyl, for the purpose of a Welfare Centre at which local ladies also give voluntary assistance

VENEREAL DISEASES.

This Department is also under the control of the Flintshire County Council, the nearest station for treatment being Chester.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The number of cases of Infectious Disease admitted into the hospital was 50 :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	35
Diphtheria	...	...	...	15
				—
				50

It is satisfactory to note that no cases of Small Pox, Enteric Fever or Puerperal Fever occurred during the year within the district.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area—Exclusive of Foreshore	...	...	919 acres.
Area—Inclusive of Foreshore	...	...	1589 „
Population at Census 1901	...	...	8461
Population at Census 1911	...	...	9005
Population at Census 1921	...	...	13490
Population R.G. estimate	...	...	10630
Number of inhabited houses at Census 1921			2092
No. of families or separate occupiers 1921			2458
Rateable value	...	...	£70,330
Sum represented by a penny rate		...	£293

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.		M.	F.			
Legitimate	...	51	81			
Illegitimate	...	9	7	Birth Rate (R.G.)	...	13.92
		—	—			
		60	88			

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child-birth :—

From Sepsis, Nil. Other causes. Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :—
66.51 Legitimate, 8 ; Illegitimate, 2 ; Total, 10.

Comment on other mortality on following pages.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

The only noteworthy causes of sickness outside the notifiable (or epidemic) disease were : Bronchial Colds, Influenza Colds and Catarrh.

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

Hospitals and other institutions available for the district.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) General.—The Royal Alexandra Hospital and Convalescent Home, through the District Nursing Fund for the Sick and Poor of Rhyl, employ a district nurse to visit the poorer people in their homes. The general public subscribe funds, and the Urban District Council contribute £10 per annum towards this object.

(b) There are no arrangements for the professional nursing of any class of Infectious Disease, outside the Isolation Hospital.

Midwives.—There are six midwives practising in the district, not including the nurses from the R.A. Hospital, several of whom are qualified.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—There is a local Centre consisting of two rooms in the Town Hall, Rhyl, under the Control of the Flintshire County Council, the County M.O.H. and Inspector of Midwives. The use of the rooms is given free by the Urban Authority.

Institutional Provision.—No provision is made within the district for unmarried mothers or illegitimate infants. There is a small school for blind children. A Home for Waifs and Strays and a Convalescent Home for poor children.

Hospitals.—No provision is made for the treatment of Tuberculosis, Maternity or Small Pox. The R.A. Children's Hospital and Convalescent Home is provided for women and children, the patients coming from all parts of England and Wales. It is supported by voluntary contributions, and a minimum fee per patient.

The Prince Edward War Memorial Hospital is doing good service. This consists of one block of buildings containing two wards of six beds each, four private wards of one bed each, and the usual administrative rooms. It is supported by voluntary contributions, and a minimum scale of fees.

Isolation Hospital.—Provision is made for the treatment of Infectious Diseases occurring within the district, viz.: Scarlet Fever, 4 adult beds; Diphtheria, 2 adult beds; Enteric Fever, 2

adult beds ; Total, 8 adult beds, There is also an annex building, consisting of two wards of 8 adult beds and small nurses' room which is intended for emergency purposes ; also an Administrative Block, &c.

The Isolation Hospital is situate at Towyn, Abergele, outside the district. There is no provision for the treatment of Small Pox beyond possession of land as a site for an hospital. The Flintshire County Council have a Small Pox Hospital at Connah's Quay.

Ambulance facilities :—

- (a) For Infectious Diseases, Horse Ambulance.
- (b) For Non-infectious Cases and Accident Cases a small push ambulance kept by the County Police. A motor ambulance the property of a private firm is used for general hospital cases.

LABORATORY WORK.

No arrangements are made within the district for Pathological or Bacteriological examinations. Diptheria Antitoxin is supplied by arrangement for poor people. No other sera or other vaccines are supplied.

LIST OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN RHYL DISTRICT.

Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Diptheria (including Membranous Croup), Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid), Pneumonia, Cholera, Plague, Puerperal Fever, Cerebro Spinal Fever, Acute Poliomyelitis, Acute Polioencephlitis, Encephalitis Lethargica, Typhus Fever, Dysentery, Erysipelas, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Tubercular, Pulmonary and other forms, Malaria (cases contracted in this country) and other cases.

LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS, ETC., IN FORCE.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890. Public Health Acts Amendments Act. 1907. Sections 19, 20, 22, 26, 28, 30, 31, 35, 36, 37, 45, 49, 51, 53, 54, 55, 57, 59, 62, 63, 64, 65, 68, 69, 75, 85, and 86.

Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890.

Regulations—Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Byelaws—Slaughterhouses, 1866.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar Structures, 1915.

Offensive Trades—Dealers in Rags and Bones, and Fish Friers, 1915.

Registries for Female Domestic Servants, 1915.

Common Lodging Houses, 1877.

Nuisances, 1890.

Removal of Offensive Matters, 1896.

Sanitary Conveniences, 1897.

Rhyl Improvements Acts, 1872 and 1901.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

It was not found necessary to take legal action in any case dealt with under the Public Health Act or other Act or Byelaws, etc.

SCHOOLS AND MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

The six elementary schools and one secondary school within the district have received attention.

Epidemic sickness, viz. : Measles and Whooping Cough was prevalent during June, in consequence of which several of the schools were closed for periods of three to four weeks during October, the infants department of one school for a period of three weeks, and in December two infants departments for two weeks. All the schools were disinfected after closure and during the holiday periods. The Medical Inspection of the children attending the schools is carried out by the County Medical Officer and Staff.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Staff consists of one Medical Officer of Health, M.D., C.M. (part time), one Sanitary Inspector, C.R. San. Inst. (full time) (Contributions are made to the salaries of both Officers by Exchequer grants), one Clerk, and a Matron and Staff at the Isolation Hospital.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Herewith I append the Report and Statistics supplied to me by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Robt. Lowe, also the usual statistics.

(Signed) E. HUGHES JONES, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

April, 1926.

TABLE I.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	At all Ages	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	Over 65	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths	Ratio of non-Notified Deaths to Notified Deaths, Tuberculosis.
Diphtheria ...	17	...	...	...	1	...	5	2	1	6	1	1	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	35	...	...	2	...	2	13	11	2	3	2	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	...	...	2	6
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis— (a) Pulmonary—M. 6, F. 4 (b) Non- " —M. 1, F. 2	10 3	... ...	... ...	... ...	... 1	... ...	... ...	1 1	... ...	4 1	2 ...	3 ..	... ...	... ...	9 1	9 to 10 2 to 3
Total ...	76	...	2	2	2	2	18	15	4	14	6	13	...	...	17	
Removal to Hospital	...	...	2	2	1	2	18	12	3	9	3	...	...	50		

All cases of Tuberculosis notified locally are enquired into and forwarded on to the County Medical Officer and the Tuberculosis Officer. There is a local dispensary under the supervision of the County Tuberculosis Officer.

TABLE II.
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth-rate, Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1925.

(Provisional figures. Populations estimated to the middle of 1925 have been used for the purposes of this Table. The mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population.	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.								Rate per 1,000 Births.		Percentage of Total Deaths.			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping-cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 Years)	Total Deaths under 1 Year.	Causes of Death Certified by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales ...	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1.0
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	92.1	7.3	0.6
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations, 20,000—50,000).	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9	1.1
London ...	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9	0.0

TABLE III.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1925 and previous years.

Name of District—RHYL URBAN.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Number corrected	Number.		Rate.	Of Non- residents registered in the District. 8	Of Resi- dents not registered in the District. 9	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.		
			4	Nett Rate.				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.		Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1915	9250	...	167	18	200	21.6	19	25	18	107.7	206	22.1
1916	9250	...	181	19.56	163	17.62	20	19	16	88.4	162	17.5
1917	9250	...	137	15.7	89	9.62	15	19	12	87.58	93	10.0
1918	9500	...	134	14.1	166	17.46	24	14	14	95.5	156	16.42
1919	9500	...	144	15.1	144	15.26	11	13	17	108	148	15.5
1920	10000	...	202	20.2	129	12.9	21	19	19	94	127	12.7
1921	11000	...	136	12.36	129	11.72	26	17	13	95.6	120	10.9
1922	10390	...	141	13.57	138	13.28	28	19	10	70.9	129	12.4
1923	10430	...	157	15.5	140	13.42	22	14	2	12.73	132	12.6
1924	10610	...	140	13.95	126	11.88	23	11	12	85.71	114	10.74
1925	10630	...	154	13.92	154	13.92	18	16	10	66.51	136	12.79

Area of District in acres (land and inland water): 919 (exclusive of foreshore); 1,589 (inclusive of foreshore).

Total population at all ages : 13,490.

At Census, June, 1921.

Present estimated population, 10,630.

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURNS.

Causes of Death in Rhyl Urban District, 1925.

Causes of Death.				Males.	Females
Civilians only—All causes				75	73
1	Enteric fever	...	...	...	...
2	Small-pox	...	...	...	...
3	Measles ...	...	...	...	...
4	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...
5	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...
6	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...
7	Influenza ...	...	...	2	1
8	Encephalitis lethargica	...	...	...	2
9	Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	...	...
10	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	4	5
11	Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	1	1
12	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	12	13
13	Rheumatic fever	...	...	...	...
14	Diabetes ...	...	...	...	...
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	9	9
16	Heart Disease	...	...	8	15
17	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	1
18	Bronchitis	...	...	5	4
19	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	4	2
20	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	1	3
21	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum...	...	...	2	1
22	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	1
23	Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	1
24	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...
25	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	6	2
26	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...
27	Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...
28	Congenital debility, &c.	...	...	1	2
29	Violence, apart from suicide	...	...	3	2
30	Suicide ...	...	...	1	...
31	Other defined diseases	...	...	15	8
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	1	...
Special causes (included above)					
	Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...
	Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...
Deaths of infants } Total				5	3
under 1 year } Illegitimate				2	...
Total Births				60	88
Legitimate				51	81
Illegitimate				9	7
Population { for Birth Rate ... } 10630					
{ for Death Rate ... }					

General Register Office, Somerset House,

London, W.C.2. March, 1926.

TABLE IVa.

Causes of and Ages at Death during Year 1925.

Name of District—RHYL URBAN.

LOCAL RETURNS—AGE PERIODS.

Causes of Death.		Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents, whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total Deaths, whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
		All Ages.	Under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 years and upwards.	
All Causes—Certified ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Uncertified...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4 Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6 Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7 Influenza ...	...	3	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
8 Encephalitis lethargica ...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
9 Meningococcal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	...	9	...	1	2	3	3	...	...
11 Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
12 Cancer, malignant disease ...	...	23	...	...	1	1	11	10	...
13 Rheumatic Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14 Diabetes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c. ...	...	17	...	...	...	...	4	13	...
16 Heart Disease ...	...	23	...	...	1	2	9	11	...
17 Arterio-sclerosis ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
18 Bronchitis ...	...	18	3	...	...	2	2	11	...
19 Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	5	...	...	...	...	3	2	...
20 Other respiratory diseases ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
21 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	...	3	...	...	...	...	2	1	...
22 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23 Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
24 Cirrhosis of Liver ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 Nephritis and Bright's disease ...	...	11	...	...	...	1	5	5	...
26 Puerperal sepsis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
27 Parturition, apart from puerperal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28 Congenital Debility, &c. ...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
29 Violence, apart from suicide ...	...	6	1	1	...	...	3	1	...
30 Suicide ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
31 Other defined diseases ...	...	16	2	...	...	...	7	7	...
32 Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	...	9	1	...	...	1	1	6	...
Totals ...	...	152	10	2	4	14	54	68	15

TABLE V.

Infant Mortality during the Year 1925.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under
1 Year of Age.

Name of District—RHYL URBAN.

Causes of Death.			Under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 6 months.	6 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.	
All causes {	Certified	...	4	2	2	8	
	Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...
{	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...
	Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...
{	Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...
	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...
{	Whooping-Cough	...	...	...	...	...
	Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...
{	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...
	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...
{	Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...
{	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	...	...	...	...	...
	Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...
{	Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...
	Bronchitis	...	...	1	1	2
{	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...
	Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...
{	Enteritis...	...	...	...	...	...
	Gastritis ...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Syphilis ...	...	...	...	...	...
	Rickets ...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Suffocation, overlying	...	1	...	...	1
	Injury at Birth	...	...	...	...	...
{	Atelectasis	...	...	...	...	...
	Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	...	...
{	Premature Birth ...	...	...	...	...	...
	Atrophy, Debility & Marasmus	...	2	...	...	2
{	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Causes	...	1	1	1	3	
Totals			...	4	2	2	8

Nett Births registered during the calendar year	152	{	Legitimate	...	...	142
		{	Illegitimate	...	...	10
Nett Deaths registered during the calender year	8	{	Legitimate Infants	...	...	6
		{	Illegitimate Infants	...	...	2

RHYL ISOLATION HOSPITAL RETURNS.

Patients Admitted.

1925.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Enc. Lethar.	Suspect.
January	*3	1	...	...
February	...	2	...	...
March ...	5	...	...	...
April ...	6	1	...	...
May ...	10	...	...	...
June ...	4	1	...	...
July ...	3	2	...	...
August ..	4	...	...	...
Sept. ...	...	1	...	...
October ..	...	1	...	...
Nov. ...	1	1	...	...
Dec. ...	2	6	...	...
Total...	38	16	...	...

* In Hospital January 1st, 1925.

Remaining in Hospital December 31st, 1925 : 2 Scarlet Fever ;
5 Diphtheria.

Admitted.

Under 5 years	...	...	...	...	5
Over 5 years	...	...	...	...	45
Patients in Hospital January 1st, 1925				...	4
					—
					54
Males	...	...	...	...	14
Females	...	...	...	...	36
					—
					50
Results.					
Patients Cured	...	...	...	...	43
„ Remaining in Hospital			...	...	7
					—
					50

K. C. MORRIS,

January, 1926.

MATRON..

RHYL'S SUNSHINE RETURN FOR 1925.

Taken at the Lake by the Campbell-Stokes Recorder.

Month.	Hours.	Days on which Bright Sunshine was recorded.	Month.	Hours.	Days on which Bright Sunshine was recorded.
January ...	55·6	... 22	September	120·0	... 29
February ...	78·2	... 26	October ...	75·9	... 24
March ...	104·5	... 27	November	95·3	... 26
April ...	202 0	... 29	December	53·5	... 21
May ...	160·4	... 30			
June ...	295·6	... 30			
July ...	208·0	... 31		1610·0	... 324
August ...	161·0	... 29			

The records have been taken on the Reservoir near the Lake by the Campbell-Stokes Recorder, which during the season was examined by an Inspector of the Meteorological Office.

The days of Sunshine per annum for the last ten years is interesting, and is as follows :—

1916 ... 295	1918 ... 302	1920 ... 305	1922 ... 297	1924 ... 304
1917 ... 286	1919 ... 310	1921 ... 317	1923 ... 314	1925 ... 324

During 16 years Rhyl has enjoyed recorded Sunshine on 4951 days— a yearly average of 309 sunny days.

J. D. POLKINGHORNE, Official Recorder.

THE MEAN MONTHLY HUMIDITY OF THE AIR AND BRIGHT SUNSHINE AT RHYL FOR THE YEAR 1925 was as follows :—

1925.	9 Hour Observation.	17 Hour Observation.	BRIGHT SUNSHINE.	
	%	%	Total Hours.	Daily Mean Hours.
October ...	80	... 77	55·6	... 1·79
November ...	80	... 80	78·2	... 2·79
December ...	84	... 80	104·5	... 3·37
January ...	78	... 78	202·0	... 6·73
February ...	81	... 79	160·4	... 5·17
March ...	79 = 80	... 76 = 78	295·6	... 9·85
April ...	69	... 69	208·0	... 6·71
May ...	72	... 73	161·0	... 5·19
June ...	66	... 65	120·0	... 4 00
July ...	74	... 69	75·9	... 2·45
August ...	76	... 74	95·3	... 3·18
September ...	73 = 72	... 72 = 70	53·5	... 1·73
Mean of the Year	76	... 74	...	...

The relative humidity of the air is always expressed as the percentage of solar observation, and is an inverse measure of the drying effect of air. See the above figures.

RAINFALL IN 1925.

Rain Gauge : Diameter of Funnel, 8 inches.

Height of Top : Above Ground, 1 ft. ; Above Sea Level, 31 ft.

Records taken on Reservoir near the Lake.

Month.	Total Depth.		Greatest Fall, being over 2 Inches.		No. of Wet Days.
	Millimetres	Inches.	Millimetres	Inches.	
January ...	46·9	1·85	...	...	12
February ...	152·4	4·20	152·4	4·20	19
March ...	20·1	0·79	...	...	12
April ...	32·5	1·28	...	...	14
May ...	83·3	3·28	83·3	3·28	19
June ...	0·3	0·1	...	...	1
July ...	56·1	2·21	56·1	2·21	13
August ...	97·0	3·82	97·0	3·82	18
September .	85·3	3·36	85·3	3·36	22
October ...	96·4	3·80	96·4	3·80	20
November...	78·9	3·11	78·9	3·11	14
December ...	53·0	2·09	53·0	2·09	17
Total...	822·2	29·80	...	...	181

The average Rainfall for 10 years in Inches is as follows :—

1916 ... 28·56 ... 1918 ... 29·94 ... 1920 ... 31·71 ... 1922 ... 24·68 ... 1924... 28·04
 1917 ... 29·49 ... 1919 ... 31·45 ... 1921 ... 20·47 ... 1923 ... 29·68 ... 1925... 29·80

Total average for 10 years, 28·38 inches.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925 for the Urban District of Rhyl on the administration of the Factory & Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1—Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces, Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories ... (Including Factory Laundries) ...	8	...	...
Workshops ... (Including Workshop Laundries)...	82	5	...
Workplaces ... (Other than Outworkers' premises)	...	...	...
Total ...	90	5	...

2—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Numer Prose- cutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	5	5	...	...
Want of ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors	1	1	...	...
Other nuisances ... ..	...	...	...	...
Sanitary accommodation } insufficient ... ..	...	...	...	...
} unsuitable or defective ... ..	...	...	...	...
} not separate for sexes... ..	...	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground house (s 101) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Breach of special sanitary require- ments for bakehouses (ss.97 to 100)	...	...	...	...
Other offences ... ..	...	...	...	...
Total	6	6	...	...

* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3—HOME WORK.—NONE RETURNED.

4—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.

Workshops on the Register (s 131) at the end of the year.	Number
Dressmakers, &c.	16
Tailors	6
Bakers and Confectioners	26
Boot Repairers	9
Joiners	3
Miscellaneous	34
	—
Total number of Workshops on Register ...	94

5—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Acts (s 133, 1901)	Nil
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remedi- able under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s 5, 1901) :—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	4
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ...	4
Other	Nil
Underground Bakehouses (s 101) in use at the end of year ...	Nil

E. HUGHES JONES, M.D.,

April, 1926.

Medical Officer of Health.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

REPORT OF SAMPLES TAKEN 1925.

A copy of the report received from Mr. A. E. Lindsay, Supt. Flint Constabulary, who is responsible to the County for samples taken in Rhyl and District as Inspector of Food and Drugs.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLES.

As desired, I append particulars of samples of Food and Drugs taken during the year of 1925 within the Rhyl Urban District by the Police.

Description of Sample.	No. of Samples taken.	Result of Analysis	Remarks.
Milk	22	Genuine.	
Milk	4	Doubtful.	Vendors Cautioned.
Milk	2	Adulterated	Vendors Convicted.
Tinned Cream	1	Genuine.	
Bread	1	Genuine.	
Lemon Curd	1	Genuine.	
Mixed Pickles	1	Genuine.	
Sausage	1	Doubtful.	

Samples purchased under Fertiliser and Feeding Stuffs Act.

Superphosphate of Lime	1	Satisfactory.
Indian Meal	1	Satisfactory.
Uncorticated Cotton Cake	1	Satisfactory.
Bran	1	Satisfactory.

(Signed) A. E. LINDSAY, *Supt.*

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

For the Year ending 31st December, 1925.

TABLE I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

Number of Complaints Received	...	...	...	...	1660
„ Drains Released and Cleansed by Department	...	...	...	...	1066
„ Nuisances Found	...	...	...	...	519
„ „ Abated	...	...	...	...	551
„ „ Not Abated	...	...	...	...	36
„ Preliminary Notices Served	...	...	...	...	261
„ Statutory „ „	...	...	...	...	87
„ Reference to Officials	...	...	...	...	2
„ Visits to Infectious Diseases and Enquiries	...	...	...	...	78
„ „ or Revisits to Premises...	...	...	...	...	2431
„ „ to Bakehouses, Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	82
„ „ to Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	32
„ „ to Purveyors of Meat, Fish, &c.	...	...	...	...	629
„ „ to Slaughterhouses, and Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	273
„ „ to Van Dwellings, Tents and Camps...	...	...	...	...	34
„ „ to Marine Stores	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ to Fried Fish Establishments	...	...	...	...	7

TABLE II.—SANITARY DEFECTS.

Damp Living and Bedrooms	...	...	...	...	17
Defective Chimney Stacks	...	...	...	...	11
„ Roofs	...	...	...	...	8
„ Floors, Living and Bedrooms	...	...	...	...	5
„ Gutters and Downspouting	...	...	...	...	37
„ Plaster, Wall and Ceilings	...	...	...	...	7
„ Plaster, Outside Walls	...	...	...	...	6
„ Wash Boilers	...	...	...	...	1
„ Window Frames, Casings and Doors	...	...	...	...	8
Brickwork	...	...	...	...	5
Cords to Windows	...	...	...	...	8
Defective Dust Bins	...	...	...	...	206
Cleanse Dirty Houses	...	...	...	...	4
Defective Kitchen Ranges	...	...	...	...	5

Remove Accumulation ...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Pave Back Yards ...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...	23

Drainage and Water Closets.

Chocked Drains or W.C.'s ...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Cleanse Filthy W.C. Premises...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective Fittings, W.C. and Sinks ...	...	...	...	...	...	33
„ Drains ...	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ W.C. Basins ...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Insufficient Water Supply ...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Reseat W.C. Basins ...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective Cistern ...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Defective W.C. Premises ...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective Access Covers ...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Defective W.C. Doors ...	...	...	...	...	...	6
						<hr/> 513

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Limewash Workshops ...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective Floor ...	...	...	...	...	...	1

TABLE III.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of Cases Reported by M.O.H. and Enquiries made	78
„ „ Cases Removed to Isolation Hospital ...	50
„ „ Cases Removed from outside the district ...	Nil
„ „ Rooms Disinfected Lamp and Spray ...	77
„ „ Rooms Disinfected Spray only ...	19
„ „ Articles Disinfected by Steam ...	305
„ „ Schoolrooms Disinfected ...	14
„ „ Taxis Disinfected ...	16

TABLE IV.—SCAVENGING.

Ashbins Cleared (weekly or bi-weekly) ...	144736
Ashpits Cleared as required ...	15
Trade Refuse Cleared, including Fish, Meat, and Market Offal (Calls) ...	18971
Loads of Ashes to Refuse Destructor...	4730

Loads of Trade Refuse to Destructor ...	...	895	}	1099
Loads of Fish Refuse to Destructor ...	...	204		
Loads of Ashpit Refuse to Destructor ...	...	...		21
Total Loads, 5860 = 19.0 per working day.				

NOTE.—There are only two Privies and five ashpits within the District, all of which are situated on the Boundary of the District, no sewer being available for the purpose of carrying off the faecal matter.

UNSOUND FOOD.

During the year the following were condemned as being unfit for the food of man, and their use for such purpose prevented same being destroyed in the Refuse Destructor or returned for other purposes :—

Sets of Offals (Viscera and Lungs), 2

Beef, 120lbs.

Crabs, 2 cwt.

Corned Beef, 12lbs

All being voluntary surrendered.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

The following table gives the number of dealers operating within the district :—

Resident Retailers ...	...	...	...	28
Resident Cowkeepers and Retailers	...	...	...	9
Resident Wholesalers	...	...	...	1
Non-Resident Retailers	...	...	...	18

The latter are Cowkeepers registered as such within their own Districts. The number of Cows kept by Resident Cowkeepers is 21, so that over 90 per cent. of the milk consumed in Rhyl is produced outside the district boundary.

One retailer is registered for the sale of Graded or Pasteurised Milk.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 16 persons and places registered under the Offensive Trades Clauses of the Public Health Act and the Public Health Amendment Act., viz. : 'Tripe Dressers, 2 (these being local butchers who dress their own offal only for the purpose of sale). 8 Fish Friers (all these are subject to Annual Licence), and 6 Marine Stores, persons and places.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES AND PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

There are 4 Private Slaughter Houses within the District 1 Registered, 3 Licensed. There are also 2 Private Slaughter Houses just outside the District. Needless to say none of the above premises are up-to-date buildings.

REFUSE.

The present system of refuse collection, viz. : Cartage by Contract and collection by Council Employees was far from satisfactory during the year. Complaints of non-collection being numerous a special report dealing with the question was presented to the Council in October. They eventually deciding to enter into a new contract, the contractor to be responsible for carrying out the whole of the work and providing all necessary materials, subject to the supervision of their Sanitary Inspector.

REFUSE DESTRUCTOR.

During the year three of the four cells erected 21 years ago collapsed, which necessitated the tipping of refuse in the Cefndy Pool, an objectionable procedure but under the circumstances necessary. All Fish and Market Refuse being destroyed in the one remaining cell.

Application has been made to the Ministry of Health for the purpose of erecting another 4-cell destructor. After enquiry by J. C. Dawes, Esq., Ministry of Health, permission has been granted to carry out the necessary work. This has now been placed in the hands of Messrs. Heenan and Froud, contractors, to carry out the necessary work. The Destructor work will also in the future be under the direct control of the Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING.

The NUMBER of DWELLING HOUSES for all classes number 2,126, and the number of WORKING CLASS DWELLINGS 682, under £16 rental pre Rents Restrictions Acts.

Twenty-four HOUSES were erected for the working class and 36 other houses were built, 13 are in course of erection, also 50 Working Class Dwellings.

No Statutory Action was taken under either the Housing Acts or the Public Health Acts.

There are no really UNHEALTHY AREAS in the district.

No houses were erected under section 57 of the Housing Act, 1925.

The only staff engaged on Housing Inspections is the Sanitary Inspector along with his other general duties.

HOUSING CONDITIONS FOR YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER, 1925.

Number of Dwelling Houses of which inspections were made and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.—84.

Number of Dwelling Houses found defective—32.

Number of Dwelling Houses found defective and incapable of being made fit—Nil.

Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were issued or other remedial measures taken—32.

Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied—32.

Number of Dwelling Houses closed—Nil.

Number of unhealthy areas represented with a view to improvement schemes—Nil.

Number of Houses included in areas so represented—Nil.

All actions taken or notices served were so served under the Public Health Acts, and not under any other Statutory Powers.

(Signed) ROBERT LOWE,

F.S.I. Assoc., A.M.R.S. Inst.

RHYL

AS A HEALTH RESORT

(ADDENDUM).

RHYL is undoubtedly the finest centre for visitors to the North Wales Coast, and it possesses charms found nowhere else. It is situated on the main line of the L.M. and Scottish Railway service, and is the junction for the far-famed Vale of Clwyd, with its historical associations and health-giving properties. King George visited the Vale of Clwyd in July, 1920, and spoke of its unrivalled salubrity and sunshine. "Health is Wealth," said His Majesty. Rhyl, undoubtedly, owes its salubrity and health-giving, invigorating atmosphere to its unique position. It is on the sea coast with the Vale of Clwyd at its back. This Vale has been described as "The Sun Trap of North Wales." The ozone-laden west-north-westerly breezes come into Rhyl direct from the ocean, pass over the town to the valley beyond, dispelling in their train all fogs or mists, bathe the whole district in warm, bright sunshine, and impart to the person in search of health a new life. It has been declared by an eminent scientist that the air of Rhyl contains free iodine. There is something in the bracing atmosphere of the town which brings vigour to the tired body. Seamen will tell you that when they pass along the North Wales Coast they always look for a clear sky and brightness over Rhyl. Recently an aviator published the following in a London daily newspaper :—

"I have seen the coast from the car of an airship. On one occasion particularly, when in R23 during a long flight, I shall never forget the wonderful beauty of the coast of North Wales as seen from above. The captain of the airship pottered along at about 25 miles an hour at about seven o'clock of a gorgeous summer evening, with the western sun streaming through the windows of the car and bathing the beautiful Welsh scenery in its light. Floating some 500ft. above the sea, about half a mile off shore, we followed every indent of the coast line and obtained an extraordinary idea of the features of the various watering places, as a result of which I well remember deciding upon Rhyl as my choice."

Rhyl is now the most up-to-date Health Resort in North Wales—possesses a variety of first-rate amusements unequalled by any resort in the Principality, a unique sunshine record, unrivalled sands, absolutely safe bathing grounds, boating on sea

and lake, bowling greens, tennis courts, and, above all, an invigorating air and health-giving sea breezes which are the envy of all other resorts and the Paradise of holiday makers. Its recuperative powers are wonderful, and medical men have now recognised Rhyl as the place to ensure their convalescent patients becoming quickly restored to vigorous health. One remarkable feature in the growth of Rhyl is its sudden rise in the amusement world, the old stigma of lack of amusements being now entirely removed. A thoroughly up-to-date Theatre, with first-class companies, a Municipal Pavilion with a splendid Orchestra, and Theatrical Companies, also special Vocalists at Sunday Concerts; an Amphitheatre with Concert parties, four Picture Theatres and a Marine Lake for boating; a pleasure park where a round of amusements continues all day. These are some of the principal amusements of the season. A special feature is the Coaching and Motor Tours through the gorgeous scenery which abounds in the district.

Although comparatively of modern growth, Rhyl has the reputation of being an ideal seaside resort for adults and children alike. Those who have derived such wonderful benefit from its marvellously pure bracing air predict a very great future for this, the nearest watering place to the busy Midland towns. Sir Charles Cameron, Sir William Gull, and, indeed, very many of the most eminent physicians have expressed great confidence in the recuperative powers of the air of Rhyl. Sir Charles Cameron especially has expressed his admiration of the excellent sanitary arrangements, which are as perfect and as complete as money can make them. His Majesty the King, speaking at Rhyl in June, 1902, described Rhyl as being "fine, healthy and bracing." The temperature is much more uniform than in the Midlands—a fact to deal with in deciding where to spend a holiday for rest and health.

One of the most extraordinary features about the climate of Rhyl is the fact that FOG IS ABSOLUTELY UNKNOWN. Its record of sunshine is known all the world over to be unique. While the big towns and cities are reeking with fog, Rhyl is bathed in warm sunshine, and it is no uncommon thing to see people bathing in the open sea as late as Christmas. Snow is rarely seen—not a flake fell in the 1920-21 winter—and frost rarely makes its appearance. The average rainfall is low. The town being built on an exceptionally porous soil, the surface being entirely of sandy nature, rain water quickly disappears and the roads become dry rapidly. The water supply, which comes from the hills of Denbighshire, is of a very pure nature. The immense reservoirs at Llanefydd are a full ten miles distant from the town, and as the local authorities have full control over the gathering ground there is no fear of contamination.

And here it may be noted that Rhyl is coming to the front as a Winter resort. The fact that its temperature in the Winter months is some ten or twelve degrees warmer than the Midlands and its almost daily record of sunshine is inducing many to make this town their Winter resort rather than fly to the Continent.

Speaking at Rhyl in March, 1915, the Right Hon. D. Lloyd George referred to the air of Rhyl. He congratulated the Officers and Men who had been trained in that town on their appearance, and said he was not sure that the residents were not right in taking credit for the good and salubrious air. It had given the men vigour, strength and virility, and that came from the air of Rhyl. Lord Kitchener and those who were responsible for the creation of the great armies, would, he had no doubt, be duly grateful for the elements which had done so much to contribute to the fashioning of that great army,

From these remarks it will be gleaned that Rhyl is an ideal place, not only for the pleasure seeker, but for the convalescent and those who require relaxation from the daily tasks of life. Rhyl is the best centre for the Vale of Clwyd, and 'buses run direct.

THE PROMENADES.

The West Promenade is now linked up with that of the East, thus giving an excellent asphalted walk of over two miles long by the side of the sea, and provided with ample seating and ornamental kiosks in case of inclement weather. A very extensive scheme, consisting of gardens and flower beds, etc., has just been completed, which add considerably to the attractiveness of the whole front.

On the Promenade well-kept flower beds and an avenue of shrubs relieve the eye from the glare of the summer sun, while there are many openings on to the stretch of firm golden sands which are continuously washed by the tides and which have been aptly termed THE "CHILDREN'S PARADISE." Here in the summer one sees countless children with spade and bucket, the picture of health and pleasure, left to enjoy themselves by their parents in the full knowledge that there are neither cliffs, quicksands, nor anything else which can place their little ones in the least danger..

(Extract from "Rhyl—The Sun Trap of North Wales.")

